Working of the Travancore Sugars Ltd.

71. MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the quantities of jaggery and carboraffin purchased by the Travancore Sugars, Ltd., in 1105 and the value thereof respectively;

(*b*) why the carboraffin process of refining jaggery, which proved successful when marketable sugar was produced in 1104, did not prove so after Government sanctioned the loan;

(*c*) whether the Managing Agents of the Travancore Sugars, Ltd., who observed that the carboraffin process adopted in the factory was not suited for jaggery refining, were the same persons who produced marketable sugar in 1104 before the Government sanctioned the loan;

(*d*) who the Managing Agents were who suggested that the carboraffin process for jaggery refining should be replaced by the bone-char process;

(*e*) the value of the jaggery on which in Medam 1105 attempts were made to refine jaggery which proved unsuccessful;

(*f*) the conditions of the agreement executed with the shareholder who offered to work the factory on a contract basis; and

(*g*) whether the company's sugar now on the market was produced by refining jaggery by the carboraffin process or the bone-char process?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Industries*): (*a*) The quantity of jaggery purchased in 1105 was 1,256 candies and 259 lbs. of the value of Rs. 33,196-as. 5 and pies 2 and that of carboraffin was 3 tons costing Rs. 5,847-3-9.

(*b*) Change of Expert. The new expert had no experience of the process.

(*c*) The head of the firm of Managing Agents was of that opinion, though the other partner in the firm differed from him.

(*d*) Mr. Ananda Rao, senior partner of the firm of Managing Agents.

(*e*) About 100 candies.

(*f*) The main conditions were the company were to purchase jaggery and allow the contractor to work the same in the factory and convert into sugar of marketable type. The contractor had to give at least 50 per cent. in sugar of the jaggery he took. He had to meet all his expenses and in turn he must be paid Rs. 11 per candy of jaggery melted.

(*g*) The company's sugar now on the market is all produced by vegetable carbon.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: With reference to the answer to part (*c*), may I know from the member whether the sugar factory has not been designed for the carboraffiin process of refining jaggery?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI: Yes.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: Was not this fact known to the Managing Agents who first took up the business?

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MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI: Yes.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: May I know why, after one year, they recommended to Government that the carboraffin process should be changed to the bone-char process?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI: There was difference of opinion in regard to that matter between the Expert and the Managing Agents; the Managing Agents brought in another Expert who did not know much about the carboraffin process. So, the Managing Agents thought that it was better to change the process to bone-char.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: Not the Expert?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI: No.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: Am I to understand that, instead of changing the Expert, the Managing Agents recommended the change of the whole plant?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI: Only a special tower had to be erected for the bone-char process; and that the Government did not approve.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: With reference to the answer to part (*e*), may I know whether the attempts to refine the jaggery were made on the carboraffin process or the bone-char process?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI: Only the carboraffin process.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: Who is to suffer the loss of the jaggery lost on account of the experiment?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI: The Compay.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: Do not Government also suffer the loss on their shares?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI: Naturally.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: With reference to the answer to part (*g*), may I know whether the Expert, who now refines the jaggery, is the one who was with them when they found out that the carboraffin process will not be a success?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLA: No.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: I challenge that answer.

Lack of facilities for importing rice and paddy at the Valiathura Port.

72. MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware that considerable hardship is being experienced by the merchants who import paddy and rice at the Valiathurai Pier for want of sufficient godowns and if so, the action taken by them to remove the same;

(*b*) whether they are aware that, since the port limits are not enclosed, the merchants find it very difficult especially during nights since there are no lights to guard the paddy and rice unloaded, and if so, whether they will afford protection by enclosing the port limits and providing electric lights;

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